

(d) The Government has requested all States/Union Territories to take necessary steps to ensure that the rules as stipulated in the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 are implemented in letter and spirit and to set up an inspection procedure to ensure that disposable items are segregated and treated properly before disposal so that the same are rendered unusable.

Prevention of Tetanus Deaths

2221. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Tetanus deaths on the rise" published in the Statesman dated 13th July, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to combat this deadly but preventable disease and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:

(a) No such news item appeared in the Statesman dated 13 July, 2000 of New Delhi and Calcutta editions. However, there is a news item captioned "Tetanus deaths on the rise" in the Statesman dated 14th July, 2000, New Delhi edition.

(b) and (c) As reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, there is significant decline in the number of total tetanus cases and neonatal tetanus cases over the years. Total tetanus cases have declined from 36192 in 1998 to 3588 in 1999 and neonatal tetanus cases from 11849 in 1998 to 1767 in 1999. In order to improve coverage under routine immunization programme, Government is undertaking measures to revamp the Universal Immunization Programme in next 2-3 years by strengthening outreach services, cold chain training, implementation and monitoring.

Infant Mortality

†2222. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child mortality rate in the country is very high;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.